

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, DC

# FSIS NOTICE

3-03

2/11/2003

## DELAY OF POLICY TO DISCARD SAMPLES THAT ARE UNSEALED OR THAT HAVE BROKEN SEALS

Until further notice, program employees at FSIS Laboratories are not to discard samples simply because of a problem obviously related to the seal (e.g., the seal did not adhere properly or is broken).

Paragraph VIII, Sample Acceptance Policy of FSIS Directive 7355.1 revision 2, states that "[e]ffective two months from issuance of this directive, all non-investigative samples arriving at the FSIS Laboratories unsealed or with broken seals must be discarded." However, due to the difficulties inspection program personnel are experiencing with the new seals, FSIS Form 7355-2A/B, Sample Security Seal, FSIS Laboratories will not discard samples if the seals are not completely secure as long as there is no evidence of tampering or other problems with the sample.

Program employees are to continue following all other instructions in FSIS Directive 7355.1, revision 2, and inspection program personnel are to continue sending samples to the appropriate laboratories.

Please direct any questions to the Technical Service Center.

*Philip S. Derfler /s/*

Deputy Administrator  
Office of Policy, Program, and  
Employee Development

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**NOTICE EXPIRES:** 2/1/2004

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